



FACE Program Fact Sheet

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

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Beef Farmer Pinned Under Overturned All-Terrain Vehicle

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program received reports of 102 occupational fatalities that occurred in 2000. Twenty-two of the victims were farmers or farm workers.

This fact sheet describes a fatality that occurred when an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) overturned on a farmer. Farm safety professionals and farmers who use ATV's should bring the listed recommendations to the attention of farm workers.

THE INCIDENT

A 50-year-old male farmer was using a six-wheel all-terrain vehicle to repair fences on a hillside. The vehicle was equipped with a raised cargo box where he carried his tools and supplies (Figure 1). ATVs, including this model, are not equipped with a rollover protection structure (ROPS) or a seatbelt. The vehicle struck a hay bale that was partially hidden in the grass and rolled over sideways down the hill. The victim either jumped or was tossed from the vehicle as it overturned, and was pinned underneath.

When the victim did not return to the farmhouse for dinner as expected, his family searched the farm area and found him beneath the vehicle. Emergency services were summoned, and were onsite within six minutes. The coroner pronounced the victim dead at the scene.



Figure 1

RECOMMENDATIONS

To prevent similar occurrences, farmers and other workers who use off-road utility vehicles should:

- **select a non-ATV* utility vehicle equipped with ROPS and designed to maintain a low center of gravity.**
- **conduct a thorough evaluation of the terrain to identify hazards in the pathway prior to beginning an operation with an off-road vehicle**

* The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources defines ATV as "an engine driven-device which has a net weight of 900 pounds or less, which has a width of 48 inches or less, which is equipped with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator and which is designed to travel on 3 or more low-pressure tires".

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, in agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational fatalities. The Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program focuses on identifying factors that increase the risk of work-related fatal injuries. The Wisconsin FACE Program helps in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing fatal work injuries.

PLEASE POST

FACE information is produced and distributed to provide current, relevant education on methods to prevent severe work-related injuries.

If you have comments or questions, please call the FACE Project at 608/266-7298, or write:

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